

REMARKS

This is in response to Final Office Action mailed May 2, 2008. Claims 14, 15, 17 – 22 and 24 – 33 remain pending in the application. By this response, claims 14, 17-19, 22, and 25 have been amended and claim 16 has been canceled.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated claims 16-20 and 22 included allowable subject matter. In order to obtain the issuance of allowable subject matter at the earliest possible date, Applicants have amended independent claim 14 to include the subject matter of previously pending claim 16, and have cancelled claim 16. Applicants submit that because each of the remaining pending claims ultimately depend from independent claim 14, these claims are likewise allowable.

Correction to the Specification

The Office Action objected to the disclosure at page 13, lines 4-8, as referencing a numeral not included in the figures. By the above amendment, Applicants have removed the numeral 13' and clarified that which is being referenced. For example, the “position fixing means of the mop holder which correspond to the attachment means” are described at least at page 8, lines 15-18.

Objection to Claim 25

The Office Action objected to claim 25 as negatively reciting a limitation, namely that the edges of the knitted fabric are “not hemmed.” In accordance with MPEP § 2173.05(i), “there is nothing inherently ambiguous or uncertain about a negative limitation.” Here, one skilled in the art would understand what is meant by “not hemmed.” However, solely to expedite prosecution and place this application in condition for allowance, Applicants have amended

claim 25 to claim this feature more positively. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of this objection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejected claims 14-15, 21, 24-27, 29-30 and 32-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,887,311 to Kresse et al. ("Kresse"). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is rendered moot by the above amendments.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 28 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kresse in view of the level of ordinary skill in the art. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is rendered moot by the above amendments.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew J. S. Graham
Registration No. 54,647

Dated: Sept. 2, 2008
Customer No. 22859
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
200 South Sixth Street, Suite 4000
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1425 USA
Telephone: (612) 492-7000
Facsimile: (612) 492-7077

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